NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
February 13, 1998

EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING WITH CPS!!

The Education Department has teamed up with the Chicago Public Schools' Parents as Teachers First (PATF) program to train parent/teacher mentors in the use of the Museum as an educational tool. PATF reaches out to families in low income communities to promote early childhood development, focusing on the parent as the child's first teacher. The mentors attend training Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings here at the Museum with **Kavan Yee** (649) who was our Summer '97 Dino Dig Manager. The Education Department welcomes Kavan back and is thrilled to have him working on this new exciting program. Kavan and **Kathleen Weibel,** in cooperation with **Connie Sulkin,** also of the Education Department are teaching the PATF mentors about four areas of the Museum: dinosaurs, animal identification, Africa and birds. The mentors will learn how to guide families with pre-school age children through these parts of the Museum with directed learning and activities.

STAFF MOVIE NIGHTS
The Rock -- February 18
Phenomenon -- February 25

EXERCISE CLASS
Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in Rice Wildlife Research Station -- all welcome!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PATTERSON TO PARTICIPATE IN PENROSE CONFERENCE

Bruce Patterson (MacArthur Curator, Mammals) is an invited participant in the 1998 Penrose Conference entitled "Linking spatial and temporal scales in Paleoecology and Ecology." The conference is jointly sponsored by the Geological Society of America and the Ecological Society of America and is run as a workshop, by invitation only. It will take place in May, in a series of sites in coastal Virginia and Maryland.

REINHARD DISCOVERS SECOND INCAN MUMMY IN PERU

A team led by Research Associate **Johan Reinhard** (Anthropology) and Peruvian archaeologist Jose Antonio Chavez have discovered the frozen mummy of a young Inca sacrificed to the gods more than 500 years ago. They made the discovery near the summit of Mount Ampato, in Southern Peru near the city of Arequipa. The find was made public in late December 1997. Two years ago Reinhard found the first such mummy, nicknamed "Juanita" and "The Lady of Ampato," near an Inca sacrificial site on Ampato. Archaeologists in Arequipa said the most recent find, though struck by lightning in the skull after death, was nearly

as well-preserved as "Juanita," and should provide unique information on the civilization's lifestyle in the mountain regions.

BARBARA BROWN'S MONKEY LIVES!

In 1990, **Philip Hershkovitz** described a new subspecies of masked titi monkey *Callicebus personatus barbarabrownae,* on the basis of specimens collected in 1903 for the British Museum in Bahia, eastern Brazil. He named the monkey after **Barbara Brown** "for her many years of active support of Field Museum of Natural History and valuable contributions to research by staff of the Division of Mammals." Given extensive destruction and degradation of Atlantic Forest habitats, and without further evidence of titi monkeys in this area, it was feared that Barbara Brown's titis might be extinct.

In a research report appearing in the journal Primates, Brazilian scientists Jader Marinho-Filho and Ed W. Verissimo discovered a living population of this monkey. The population persists in degraded gallery forests outside the range of the titi as originally defined by Hershkovitz. The monkeys are very shy, presumably from hunting pressure. The newly discovered population provides a powerful argument for including the gallery forests in the regional system of protected areas.

Barbara Brown (the hominid) continues her work at the Museum, finalizing research on an important monograph on the taxonomy and distribution of New World marsupials. Although the work was begun under Hershkovitz's tutelage, the execution and completion of the work is exclusively Barbara's. The gazetteers alone comprise several hundred pages of typescript. The work will offer synonymies, maps, and gazetteers for each of the New World's seventy-six marsupial species. She expects to complete the research phase later this year.

RIEPPEL RESEARCH REVISES REPTILE RELATIONSHIPS

Olivier Rieppel recently returned from two weeks in Budapest and Berlin, where he studied the skulls of *Placochelys placodonta* from the upper Middle Triassic (220 million years ago) of Hungary. *Placochelys placodonta* is a member of armored placodonts, Triassic marine reptiles with a highly characteristic crushing dentition, which fed on hard-shelled invertebrates. Armored placodonts are characterized by an armor very much like a turtle shell, and *Placochelys* in particular has been thought to be related to turtles. Olivier's study of the specimens, however, has led him to conclude that many of the similarities the armored placodonts share with turtles have been independently acquired in the two evolutionary lineages. This research will be important in evaluating existing theories about the relationship between placodonts and turtles.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE GIVE-AWAY

The office of Academic Affairs has several pamphlets to give away to anyone interested.

I) *America's Least Wanted: Alien Species Invasion of U.S. Ecosystems.* This thirty-one page booklet was published by The Nature Conservancy and provides and

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
November 20, 1998

Congratulations!

On Wednesday, November 20, 1997, The Field Museum honored the dedication of its staff members at an annual recognition luncheon for long-service employees and retirees; it is through the dedicated efforts and hard work of our staff that the Museum has accomplished so much. President John McCarter hosted the luncheon which was held in the Founders' Room. As usual, Lionel Dunn from Security Services provided impressive musical entertainment for the luncheon. Also present were staff members' guests, a department representative of the retiree, and area vice presidents. The staff members honored are listed on the following page.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
November 20, 1998

RETIREE

James Hammond, Visitor Services

25 YEARS SERVICE

John Bolt, Geology
John Engel, Botany
Jean Green, Stores

20 YEARS SERVICE

Floyd Bluntson, Facilities Planning
Andrew Bluntson, Security Services
Lionel Dunn, Security Services
Norman Hammond, Security Services
Greg Kotulski, Computing Services
Kettly Lamarre, Housekeeping
Lorraine Petkus, Purchasing
Ben Williams, Library

15 YEARS SERVICE

Daniel Brinkmeier, Education
Peter Crane, Academic Affairs
Michael Paha, Exhibits
Alan Resetar, Zoology
Irma Sanchez, Visitor Services

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Wayne Gerdes, Visitor Services
Robert Harris, Housekeeping
Neil Keliher, Exhibits
Peter Lowther, Computing Services
Andy Medina, Print Shop
Clarita Nunez, Geology

UNABLE TO ATTEND

Jesus Alvarez, Housekeeping - Retiree
Robert Stack, Stores - Retiree
Rudy Gomez, Security Services - 25 years
Joseph Nejasnic, Facilities Planning - 25 years
John Terrell, Anthropology - 25 years
Henry Tucker, Facilities Planning - 20 years
Leroy Thomas, Housekeeping - 15 years
Barry Chernoff, Zoology - 10 years
Lanet Jarrett, Anthropology - 10 years
Thomas Moon, Facilities Planning - 10 years
George Robinson, Housekeeping - 10 years
Andre Williams, Facilities Planning - 10 years

Thank you to John Weinstein for all photographs:
Lionel Dunn neg# GN 88554.11
James Hammond neg# GN 88554.10
Group photo neg# GN 88554.2

JAMES HAMMOND - HONORED RETIREE

James began his "second career" at the Museum in 1985 as a cashier after retiring from the U.S. Steel Corporation. James will always be known as our "south door ambassador." He truly enjoyed being a cashier at the south door and was particular about working at the same register. This register is still known as "James' Computer." He would often tell visitors that if they came back the next day, "I will be standing right here to greet you." James consistently demonstrated excellent service skills in helping our visitors and often used humor to connect with many of the thousands of people he served through the years. While his co-workers heard the same lines and jokes over and over, each time he delivered his one-liners to visitors, James would crack a smile in a visitor's frown and create laughter. James fully enjoyed helping people, and we truly miss his presence. We are deeply appreciative of his twelve years of distinguished service to visitors and staff.

Recently James Hammond passed away. It is appropriate to include him in this tribute to those staff honored at our annual recognition luncheon. Staff and guests attending the event were pleased with the opportunity to visit with him. Our thoughts are with his family and friends in their time of loss.

HONORED RETIREE - JESUS ALVAREZ - Unable to Attend

Jesus began his employment at the Museum on March 8, 1990 in the Housekeeping Department, and retired on July 10, 1997. Prior to coming to the Museum, Jesus had worked close to twenty years at Bethlehem Steel Company until it closed. Jesus' regular schedule was the third floor including Anthropology, Botany, and the Photography departments. But Jesus was so flexible and knowledgeable that he could work a variety of schedules including the shipping area, trash compacting, Stanley Field Hall event clean-up, and snow removal in the winter months. Jesus was always willing to go that extra mile whenever needed by his Department and Museum. We thank Jesus for his seven years of service to the Museum. His co-workers and friends miss him, and we wish him well in his retirement years.

ROBERT STACK - HONORED RETIREE - Unable to Attend

Robert began his "second career" working part-time in the Museum Stores after retiring with thirty-four years of service from the Schick Service, Inc. Robert was already associated with the Museum as a member and volunteer field trip assistant. For the nine years of his employment with the Museum, he worked in both the Egypt and Children's stores. Robert was extremely reliable, prompt in arriving to work, displayed excellent customer service skills, and was very detail-oriented in his responsibilities. His co-workers and friends have missed him greatly since his departure last April. We thank Robert for his nine years of service to the Museum and wish him well in his retirement.

THE FIELD GOOD PROGRAM

Our **Fitness Training** started Tuesday, February 10, as part of The Field Good Program for a healthier you. Remember that the next class will be held next Tuesday, February 17, in Rice Hall at 5:15 pm.

In addition to the training program, we have received tremendous response regarding offering **Weight Watchers** on-site at The Museum and will hold a free informational meeting:

Thursday, February 26, 1998
From 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m.
In Lecture Hall 2

We will need at least twenty people to commit to the program and the membership fee in order to begin Weight Watchers At Work. If we can do this, we will hold meetings, beginning March 12, on Thursdays, from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m., in Lecture Hall 2.

Weight Watchers promotes healthy eating habits, increased activity, behavioral changes and group support as a way to a healthier and slimmer you. Having this program at work will make it fun and easy to establish a support network. If you have any question, please call **Carole Kasarda** (x529).

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (from John Mazza)

Construction will begin in the restrooms outside of McDonald's after February 15, 1998. Construction is scheduled to be completed by May 15, 1998. During construction, Dining Room E will be closed.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (from Gene Dillenburg at the Shedd)

Walsh Construction will begin the remaining concrete work at the foot of our parking lot on the morning of Monday, February 9. At that time, the accessible parking places shall be closed to enable flow of traffic around the area being capped with new concrete. The new concrete will set up at least a day, and will be plated over to enable traffic for the final curing period.

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Dear Volunteer Staff:

I want to express the appreciation of our Daytime Companions group for the enjoyable day we spent at the Field Museum on Wednesday, January 28.

We liked the **Living Together** exhibit, and since it took less time than we thought, we were able to take a "Museum highlights" tour as well.

Special thanks to our "Museum highlights" guide, **Leonore Leavit.** Her extensive knowledge plus the zest she put into her delivery made her presentation a uniquely worthwhile experience.

We were particularly impressed with the Native American portion of her tour. Several of us had not visited these exhibits in decades, and we were pleased with how they had been updated. Ms. Leavit's splendid narrative was much commented upon during our luncheon afterwards.

The courtesy extended to us and the vitality of the museum atmosphere made this one of our most vibrant field trips. Congratulations on the fine job you are doing for the city.

Black History Biblical Discussion
with Christian Fellowship
Wednesday, February 18, 1998 from 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. in Classroom I.
Participants may wear Afro-centric attire. Questions? Call **Sandra Blake** (x648)

TRAVELING REESE TO VISIT TURKEY

Adjunct Curator **David S. Reese** (Anthropology) has been awarded a 1998-99 fellowship from the American Research Institute in Turkey, funded by the United States Information Agency. ARIT supports research on ancient, medieval or modern Turkey in any field of the humanities or social sciences. These funds will allow him to spend up to three months on the coast of western Turkey studying faunal remains from three Chalcolithic to Late Bronze Age sites in the Izmir area excavated by Professor Hayat Erkanal of Ankara University and also the fauna from the 14th century B.C. Kaş (Uluburun) shipwreck stored in the Bodrum Museum. From late March Reese will spend two months studying fauna from American excavations in the 1930s at Troy in northwestern Turkey. This material is currently stored in the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions (in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmnh.org) is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

"SUE" SALE !

Save on discounted "Sue" T-Rex merchandise from our Museum Stores. This is your last chance before our T-Rex is renamed.

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Friday, February 20th
in
Dining Room C/D

No additional discounts apply.
All sales are final.
No credit cards accepted.

CHECKS AND CASH ONLY !

ITEM	ORIGINAL PRICE	SALE PRICE
Adult T-Shirt	$15.95	$6.00
XXL Adult T-Shirt	$17.95	$6.00
Youth T-Shirt	$10.95	$4.00
Button	$1.00	4 for $1.00
Mug	$6.95	$3.00
Key Chain	$2.00	$1.00
Magnet	$2.00	$1.00
Pencil	$0.50	4 for $1.00
Tote Bag	$11.95	$5.00
Adult Baseball Cap	$14.95	$5.00
Youth Baseball Cap	$12.95	$4.00

overview of plant and animal species introduced in various regions of the United States that are causing many economic and ecologic problems.

II) and III) *Systematics Agenda 2000: Charting the Biospere - A Global Initiative to Discover, Describe and Classify the World's Species* and the *Systematics Agenda 2000 Technical Report.* Collectively, these two booklets outline the mission of SA 2000 and defines what systematics is and how it relates to phylogeny and taxonomy.

NEED SOME GRANT MONEY?

Check out the new Sponsored Programs Web Page on the Museum's Intranet. Enter "intranet1" on your web browser command line and follow the "Departments" link to the Sponsored Programs page. Here you will find:

➜ links to major federal and private funding agencies (including documents and proposal forms)

➜announcements of special funding opportunities

➜ proposal deadlines for all major federal programs, (eventually) with links to their web sites

➜ current Field Museum indirect and fringe benefit rates

➜ requirements for routing a new proposal through the Field Museum

➜ tips and suggestions for proposal writing and budget preparation

Please contact the Sponsored Programs Coordinator, **Steve Hageman** (x877, shageman), with any questions or suggestions for the web site.

CHRIS BROCHU JOINS THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Chris Brochu, a recent Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, joined the Geology Department on February 2 for a two-year appointment as a Research Scientist. His work will involve the morphological description of the entire skull and skeleton of the Museum's new *T. rex* (formerly known as "Sue"), including interpretation of Computed Tomographic (CT) data. His dissertation research focused on the evolutionary relationships among living and extinct crocodiles, and included extensive anatomical, CT, and molecular analyses. Welcome, Chris!

BAKKEN RETURNS FROM CHINA

Research Associate (Anthropology) and Senior Collections Management assistant (Geology) **Deborah Bakken** recently returned from archaeological excavations in China. The excavation is a collaborative research project involving U.S. and Chinese scientists, and it is focused on the recovery of Paleolithic material from the site of Panxian Dadong (Panxian grand cave). Recovered materials include stone tools, mammalian fossils, and hominid teeth. The mammalian fauna documents the presence of several extinct taxa from the middle Pleistocene. Panxian Dadong has been named a national historic site, and additional excavations are planned for next year.

Good Bye and Good Luck Party for Kim Mazanek of the Photography Department -- Zoology Classroom, Friday, February 13 -- 3:30pm-5:30pm

Congratulations!

Employee Anniversaries -- February 1998

Jodi Slapcinsky	Botany	5 years
Mary Millsap	Membership	20 years
Clara Simpson	Zoology	15 years
Philip Parrillo	Zoology/Insects	10 years

Congratulations! to **Annie Crawley** who was recently promoted from a Visitor Services Supervisor position too Training Coordinator. Annie has been instrumental in developing and implementing the customer service training program for the Visitor Services Department. Her hard work, persistence and countless contributions to our department will be missed. Annie will take her training experience to a wider audience in her new position as Training Coordinator at The Field Museum.

Congratulations! also to **John Foos Jr.** who was recently promoted from a Visitor Services Representative to a Visitor Services Supervisor. In addition to all the supervisor responsibilities, John will be taking on many of the Visitor Services' customer service training responsibilities.

Congratulations again Annie and John and good luck in your new positions.

FIELDING BOOKS

Have you read a good book lately, a treasure that never made the best seller list, or have you wasted your time reading a book that was highly recommended? If you answered yes, you may be interested in joining the lunch time brown bag book review. The format and types of books will be determined by those who join. Hopefully it will include a good cross-section of books. I'm hoping we can develop a recommended reading list which would include the current best in romance, mystery, science fiction, children's books, and of course a listing of "should have remained a tree" books. So if you are interested, drop me a note or email me. Include your reading preferences. Watch the *Natural News* to find out if we will be enjoying books together.

Lorraine Petkus (Purchasing)